

Moon Area School District Curriculum Map

Course: Practical Justice
Grade Level: 11-12
Content Area: Social Studies
Frequency: 1 Semester Course

Primary Resource(s) & Technology:
Street Law: A Course in Practical Law
Microsoft Teams, Promethean Boards, Student Laptops/iPads
Big Ideas

1. Understand where laws come from and what is our system of creating and enforcing laws
2. Classification of criminal offenses and violations in the American Legal System.
3. Understanding of crime prevention theories and techniques
4. Current controversies surrounding the American sentencing and correction system.
5. Understanding the elements of tort law and the process through which it occurs.
6. The process through which minors travel through the criminal justice system is different than adults.

Essential Questions

UNIT 1- Introduction to Law

1. Why do we study law?
2. How are laws a reflection of economic, moral, political, and social values?
3. What is the Framework of The United States Constitution?
4. What is the difference between civil and criminal law?
5. Why do Americans consider the U.S. Constitution the supreme law of the land?
6. What are the roles of judges, juries, defense attorneys, prosecutors, and plaintiffs in a trial?
7. What is the basis for appealing a case?
8. How do federal and state courts interact and function separately and jointly?
9. What are the roles of judges, juries, defense attorneys, prosecutors, and plaintiffs in a trial?
10. How does a trial process work?
11. What is the importance of juries in our adversarial court system?
12. How do appeals work?

UNIT 2 – Criminal Law

13. How does the law protect the defendant accused of crimes against the person from overly harsh penalties?
14. Why is teen suicide of serious concern in our American society?
15. What is the impact of the crime of rape on American young people?
16. What is the legal definition of the four crimes against the person?
17. What are the two broad categories of crimes against property?
18. What steps can people take to reduce the incidence of property crimes?
19. What must a prosecutor prove for a conviction to occur in a criminal case?
20. What is a defendant not required to do in a criminal case?
21. To what extent may force be use in defense of one's property?

22. What is the process if you are arrested?
23. What should be done about racial profiling?
24. What are the steps in an investigation?
25. What is the sequence of events in the criminal justice process?

UNIT 3 – Civil Law

26. What is a tort?
27. What is the purpose of tort law?
28. What are some examples of civil wrongs that occur daily?
29. What are some examples of civil wrongs that affect teenagers?
30. What role does responsibility play in tort law?
31. Why does civil law exist?
32. What is the difference between civil law and criminal law?
33. Can you explain the concept and purpose of liability?
34. Is there any other basis for personal injury besides negligence?
35. Why do tort cases go to trial?
36. How are tort actions resolved?
37. How is strict liability determined?
38. Can minors be sued for damages?
39. What is the definition of negligence?
40. What are the four elements of negligence and how is each element proven?
41. What is meant by a preponderance of evidence?
42. What is the definition of elements?
43. What is the definition of duty?

UNIT 4 – Juvenile Justice

44. What are the key differences between Juvenile Court and Adult Court?
45. What are the origins of Juvenile Court?
46. What are the three classifications of juveniles?
47. Which philosophy, humanitarian, or control, is more appropriate for juveniles who have delinquent?
48. Should the courts intervene in disputes between parents and children?
49. Should attendance at school be mandatory?
50. How did the Warren Court change Juvenile Court procedures in the 1960's?
51. Should juveniles have the same right to bail as adults?
52. What are the school's rights when it comes to dealing with suspected offenders?

Media Resources

Forensic Files, Law and Order, The Case of JonBenet Ramsey, The Genetic Detective, A Civil Action, The Rainmaker, My Cousin Vinny, The College Admissions Scandal

Discussion Topics (may vary as relevant topics emerge) (including but not limited to...)

Gun Laws, Federal Minimum Wage, Legal Drinking Age, Legalization of Drugs, Driving Age, Dress Codes, Capital Punishment, Stand Your Ground, Freedom of Speech, Search and Seizure, Euthanasia, Prison Populations, Police Relations, Immigration Policies, Innocent Persons Incarceration, Civil Forfeiture

Pennsylvania and/or focus standards referenced at:

www.pdesas.org
www.education.pa.gov

Big Ideas/EQs	Focus Standard(s)	Assessed Competencies (Key content and skills)	Timeline
UNIT 1 Questions 1-12	5.3.12.F 5.3.C.C 5.1.C.A 5.1.C.C	Lecture, Discussions, Forensic Files, JonBenet Ramsey	5-6 Weeks
PROJECT	CC.1.5.11-12.A	Famous Trials Presentations	2 Weeks
UNIT 2 Questions 13-25	5.1.C.D 8.2.12.B 5.3.12.F 5.3.C.C 5.1.C.A 5.1.C.C	Lecture, Discussions, Forensic Files, OJ Simpson	4-5 Weeks
UNIT 3 Questions 26-43	CC.1.3.11-12.D 5.3.12.F 5.3.C.C 5.1.C.A 5.1.C.C	Lecture, Discussions, Forensic Files, A Civil Action Rain Maker	4-5 Weeks
UNIT 4 Questions 44-52	5.3.12.F 5.3.C.C 5.1.C.A 5.1.C.C CC.1.2.11-12.A	Lecture, Discussions, Forensic Files, My Cousin Vinny	3 Weeks